

Obituary

Dr P G Bakker



Dr P G Bakker, the well known and well liked Dutch dermato-venereologist died on 15 June 1993 at the age of 68 years.

Peter was the son of a dermato-venereologist and followed his father in the family practice. As a teenager he suffered under the Nazi occupation of Holland. Indeed he was made a prisoner for his activities in the underground. He was placed in a concentration camp in Holland in solitary confinement and was under sentence of death. His father happened to be treating a senior German officer for syphilis and was able to intercede that his son be spared. Peter was the only one of his group who was not shot.

After the second World War Peter studied medicine specialising in dermatology under the celebrated Professor Hermans at Rotterdam and soon taking over his father's thriving practice in The Hague. Peter Bakker with his colleague Theo Moolhuysen from Rotterdam were the two well known Dutch dermato-venereologists whose association with the Medical Society for the Study of Veneral Diseases goes back for over thirty years. His interest in sexually transmitted diseases within the United Kingdom was encouraged by Mr Ambrose King. Many will remember his role in the Spring Meeting of

the MSSVD at Amsterdam in 1965. Peter was made an honorary life member of the MSSVD in 1985.

In his own country Peter was well recognised for his constant good advice and sensible opinions. He served on many local Dutch organisations to do with dermatology. He represented Holland in the Dermato-venereology Committee of the European Union of Medical Specialists and became the Treasurer of that group. He was a founder member of the European Academy of the Dermato-venereology.

Peter Bakker had played an active role in the International Union Against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses for very many years and had been a member of its Executive Committee for at least twenty years, becoming the Assistant Secretary General and later not only holding that post but also becoming the Treasurer of IUVDT.

He was looking forward to retirement and was in his last month of practice when he died. Venereology is lessened by the death of this good man, a constant friend and counsellor to us all. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and to his children.

MA WAUGH
Secretary General, IUVDT